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who knew him would doubt it, unless he doubted conversion itself. His soul is saturated with Gospel truth, which falls from his lips in well chosen and forceful words. You forget his slight impediment of utterance in the excellence of the thing uttered.

With these two ministers we have (in imagination) crossed the sea repeatedly, journeyed in Africa, listened with the negroes, sat down on Mt. Lebanon, in Syria with Druses, Maronites, Moslems, Jews, Armenians, and heard the Gospel of salvation preached to all, and especially addressed to degraded woman. "Ramallah" and "Brummana" have thus become familiar places, and our prayer goes up for the Friends missions there which Eli and Sybil Jones were so instrumental in founding, and which Timothy Hussey has been permitted to visit and aid this very season. (His second interesting letter may be found on another page.)

Sybil went and sat and spoke with the wife of Abraham Lincoln suffering under the crushing weight of her great sorrow, with a Christian sympathy and comfort which the widowed heart acknowledged.

We do not know the author of this interesting volume, but he might with propriety have condensed a little and enlarged a great deal with so much matter before him. But his work is well done, and no one can read the life and work of Eli and Sybil Jones unprofitably.

Louisa May Alcott; Her life, letters and journals. Edited by Ednah D. Cheney. Boston: Roberts Brothers. 1889. Pages, 404. Price, \$1.50.

Those myriads of young people who have been fascinated by the best, so as to seek for the worst stories of Miss Alcott, will rejoice in a book which tells more about her. Her home, family, personal life and other environments are well depicted in this volume. The editor has too often piqued curiosity by telling us what Miss Alcott herself is about to tell us in a more characteristic and interesting way. Sharp, sensible, appreciative editorial comments on what has been done or written are always welcome. But the old style of giving the "argument" in prose which each reader likes to discover in the poetry that follows, is not to be imitated, especially in biographies, when we haven't time to read the same thing twice. Again, it seems to us that the saintliness of her heroine is so emphasized as to cause disappointment in the reader when the real opinions, tastes and deeds appear in her own writings. Not that Miss Alcott was not a saint in the broad and liberal significance which the Boston school give that word, but judged by the traditional not to say scriptural standard, she seems to have lacked absolute perfection.

The hard self-denials, the occasional drudgery of her work, both household and literary, were not always borne without a sharp protest. Her mother seems to have had more faith in prayer and in God than Louisa. Her father had faith in the philosophers and philosophy. But Louisa, whatever her personal bearing towards him, laughs at his theories and his practices with her pen. She does not hesitate to scold in a decidedly talented style, and, when the lightened burdens of later life added to the freedom of her movements, she finds fault and discloses "nerves" and uses slang in a way that seems natural, but is always piquant and taking. If the ancient saints did this, it was the fashion of their biographers to conceal it. But we yield to no one in sincere admiration of a life devoted to her family and to toils with hand and pen that her own support would not have made necessary, and a holy

abhorrence of literary charlatanism disclosed in "Little Women." Her stories written to sell—written because they would sell—the proceeds of which gave food and clothing to those she loved we cannot help condoning. But many of them ought to be in oblivion and would be but for "Little Women" and a few kindred books which contain some of the most dramatic scenes and ennobling sentiments of modern fiction. The intensity of her imagination and the completeness of her sympathy, the facility of her pen and the diligence of her habits of work are all displayed in the biography. The reproduction of some of her poems is a merit and the frontispiece (portrait) is very valuable.

Our Day, "a record and review of current reform," of which Joseph Cook is Editor-in-chief, is a first class monthly and treats the various subjects of reform fully and fairly. It does not limit itself to those subjects that are of popular interest, but employs among its editors and contributors experts who can give needed information on all subjects of real progress about which men think. The November number contains articles on the *Pan-American Conference*; the *Sin of Licensing Evils*; the *Papacy*; the *Lottery*; the *Jesuit Estates in Canada*; the *Civil Sabbath*; *International Arbitration*, and copious editorial notes on current events of first importance.

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.

The following proclamation was issued at Washington, D. C., Nov. 1, and is a model in simple expression of the occasions for gratitude, but lacks any allusion to Christ whom every Christian honors as Lord, and in whose name he prays, by and through whom he receives his greatest blessings.

By the President of the United States.—A proclamation:

A highly favored people, mindful of their dependence on the bounty of divine Providence, should seek fitting occasion to testify gratitude and ascribe praise to Him who is the author of their many blessings. It behooves them to look back with thankful hearts over the past year and bless God for His infinite mercy in vouchsafing to our land enduring peace, to our people freedom from pestilence and famine, to our husbandmen abundant harvests, and to them that labor a recompense of their toil.

Now, therefore, I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States of America, do earnestly recommend that Thursday, the twenty-eighth day of this present month of November, be set apart as a day of National Thanksgiving and prayer, and that the people of our country, ceasing from the cares and labors of their working day, shall assemble in their respective places of worship and give thanks to God, who has prospered us on our way and made our paths the paths of peace; beseeching Him to bless the day to our present and future good, making it truly one of thanksgiving for each reunited home circle as for the Nation at large.

In witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and fourteenth.

By the President:

BENJAMIN HARRISON.

James G. Blaine, Secretary of State.